

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 IO-14 DRC-01 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /137 W
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P R 281100Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION -- OCTOBER 28

1. AL-AHRAM

FOUR FRONTPAGE HEADLINES CAPPING MAIN STORY STATED "MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL TENSION AT EXPLOSION POINT." MAIN STORY REPORTED FIRING CONTINUES, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH WESTERN CANAL AREA. STORY ALSO INCLUDED SOVIET-AMERICAN ARGUMENTS REGARDING WALDHEIM'S AUTHORITY CONCERNING EMERGENCY FORCE FORMATION AND STERN SOVIET STATEMENT THAT U.S. ALERT SEEKS "TO TERRORIZE USSR." STORY ADDED THAT 70 SOVIET OBSERVERS HAD ARRIVED IN CAIRO TO BE INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY STAFF AND THAT EGYPT "WELCOMES" THEIR PARTICIPATION. STORY REPORTED THAT CAIRO ALSO ASKED U.N. SECRETARY TO DETERMINE NUMBER OF OF U.S. OBSERVERS, "NOW THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED TO SHARE IN IMPLEMENTING CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION."

TWO-COLUMN CENTER STORY QUOTED UPI UN CORRESPONDENT SAYING ISRAELI LOSSES DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF WAR HAVE REACHED \$3,000 MILLION. A THREE-COLUMN UPI PHOTO SHOWED ISRAELIS RUNNING FOR SAFETY FROM EGYPTIAN ARTILLARY FIRE NEAR SUEZ.

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TWO-COLUMN WIRE SERVICE STORY DICTATED "WEST EUROPEAN

FEAR OF OIL SHORTAGE FOLLOWING ARAB NATIONS' DECISION TO REDUCE OIL OUTPUT UNTIL ISRAELI FORCES WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED LANDS." STORY PREDICTED NETHERLANDS "WILL FACE DISASTER" RESULTING FROM SEVEN ARAB NATIONS RESTRICTING OIL EXPORTS.

MAIN FOREIGN PAGE STORY QUOTED WIRE SERVICES SAYING U.S. ARMS CONTINUE TO FLOW TO ISRAEL. SECOND STORY REPORTED MOSCOW DENUNCIATION OF U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT AND STATEMENT THAT ALERT DOES NOT HELP "DETENTE TO BE MAINTAINED."

ITEMS REPORTED ON FOREIGN PAGE: U.S. RESERVE FORCES STATIONED IN WEST GERMANY UNTIL NOVEMBER 2; ISRAELI ARTILLERY SHELLED SOUTH LEBANON, AND "YEAR OF EUROPE" CANCELLED DUE TO "U.S.-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES."

HEIKAL, IN SPECIAL SUNDAY COLUMN, LINKED OCTOBER 13 U.S. RECONAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER EGYPT AND SYRIA WITH ISRAELI BITTLE LAKE CROSSING TWO DAYS LATER.

EDITORIAL ASSERTED CONTINUING U.S. SUPPLIES TO FEED ISRAEL'S "AMBITIONS" MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT "U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT DETENTE AND HAS REAL INTEREST IN FINDING LASTING ME SETTLEMENT."

COLUMNIST ALI HAMDI EL-GAMMAL, COMMENTING ON NIXON'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT "AMERICA'S EUROPEAN FRIENDS WERE NOT COOPERATIVE ENOUGH CONCERNING ME," STATED "U.S. WILL BE UNDOUBTEDLY DISILLUSIONED IF IT THINKS THAT EUROPE AND JAPAN WILL ... ROTATE IN WASHINGTON'S ORBIT FOREVER."

ARTICLE BY NYT'S DAVID BINDER ALSO PLAYED ON AMERICAN-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES THEME.

2. AL-AKHBAR

MAIN FRONTPAGE STORY UNDER TWELVE HEADLINES, RELATED "DETAILS" OF ISRAELI ADVANCES WEST OF CANAL.

BOXED STORY, DOCUMENTED WITH PHOTO REPRODUCTIONS OF AP AND UPI REPORTS, ATTEMPTED TO DISPROVE ISRAELI "BIG LIE CONCERNING SUEZ CITY CAPTURE."

TWO STORIES REPORTED BREZHNEV'S CRITICISM OF U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT AND SC EMERGENCY FORCE DELIBERATIONS.

FRONTPAGE ITEMS REPORTED 250 PLANES CARRYING ISRAELI RESUPPLIES SATURDAY; INCREASE IN VENEZUELAN OIL PRICES, AND "GRAVEST" AMERICAN-EUROPEAN SPLIT.

MAIN FOREIGN STORY REPORTED EMERGENCY FORCE CONTINGENTS' "ARRIVAL IN ME" AND "U.S. UNHAPPINESS DUE TO AMERICAN-SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION."

"FULL TEXT" OF NIXON'S FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE WAS GIVEN FULL PAGE TREATMENT.

COLUMNIST MOHAMED ZAKI ABDEL-QUDIR CRITICIZED U.S. SUPPORT AS ENCOURAGING ISRAEL TO VIOLATE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS.

COLUMNIST ANIS MANSOUR SAID "IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT ISRAEL IS SERIOUS ONLY IN GAINING MORE TERRITORY THROUGH AGGRESSION...JEWISH CONDUCT WILL NOT CHANGE. WHY SHOULD IT,

IF ALL ABSURD JEWISH DREAMS FIND CONSTANTLY INCREASING U.S. SUPPORT?"

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3. AL-GOMHOURIYA

BANNERHEADS QUOTED MOSCOW VIEW THAT "U.S. RUINS DETENTE POLICY" AND CHARGE THAT "U.S. PRESENTED OUTLANDISH JUSTIFICATION FOR ALERT." THEY ALSO REPORTED NIXON'S STATEMENT THT ME PEACE CHANCES FOLLOWING OCTOBER WAR ARE BETTER THAN ANYTIME IN PAST TWENTY YEARS.

TWO-COLUMN STORIES REPORTED UN EMERGENCY FORCES STARTING TO FUNCTION, AND ISRAELI WAR LOSS OF \$2,000 MILLION "HIT ISRAELI ECONOMY."

FRONTPAGE ITEMS REPORTED RESUMPTION OF KUWAIT'S AID TO JORDAN; NIXON'S DROPPING POPULARITY; U.S. CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN'S CRITICIZM OF U.S. PRO-ISRAELI POLICY; CONTINUING U.S. RESUPPLIES TO ISRAEL AND SOVIET OBSERVERS WAITING FOR WALDHEIM'S AUTHORIZATION.

MAIN FOREIGN PAGE STORY REPORTED NIXON'S "BITTER ATTACK" ON WEST EUROPE FOR ME STAND.

SINGLE FOREIGN PAGE ITEMS REPORTED NETHERLANDS FACING "GRAVE SITUATION" DUE TO ARAB OIL CUT AND CHINA RENOUNCEMENT OF U.S. STRATEGIC ALERT.

EDITORIAL SAID KISSINGER'S STATEMENT THAT CIRCUM-
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STANCES LEADING TO OCTOBER WAR SHOULD NOT CONTINUE
MARKS CHANGE IN U.S. PERSPECTIVE ON ME.

COLUMNIST SAMI DAUD SAID: "ENTIRE WORLD KNOWS AND
SEES THAT U.S. IS READY TO ADOPT ANY STAND TO PROTECT ISRAEL
AND ITS CRIMES."

4. COMMENT

THE THREE MAJOR CAIRO PAPERS FOCUSED ON VARIED MAIN THEMES
TODAY.

AL-AHRAM, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO DAMPEN DOWN ON A FEELING
OF SLIGHT RELAXATION AND OPTIMISM (I.E., TALK OF OPENING CANAL)
AMONG THE PUBLIC, CHOSE TO HIGHLIGHT THEME THAT MILITARY
TENSION STILL EXISTS AND EGYPT MUST REMAIN ALERT AND CAUTIOUS
UNTIL TALK OF CEASEFIRE IS REPLACED BY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE
THAT CEASEFIRE IS IN EFFECT.

AL-AKHBAR'S MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO TRY TO SOFTEN THE
NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS
OF MAGNITUDE AND SUCCESS OF ISRAELI FORCES WEST OF CANAL.

AL-GUMHURIYYA CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON USXUSSR STRATEGIC
CONFRONTATION AND SOVIET SUPPORT OF EGYPT'S INTERESTS.
AL-GUMHURIYYA'S EMPHASIS OF SOVIET ROLE IN ASSISTING EGYPT
IS UNCHARACTERISTIC OF GENERAL TREATMENT SOVIETS HAVE RECEIVED
IN CAIRO PRESS SINCE WAR BEGAN. IN PAST THREE WEEKS THERE
HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS AND INSTRUCTORS
IN EGYPT, LITTLE MENTION OF CONTINUING SOVIET AIR AND SEA LIFTS
AND NO THANKS WHATSOEVER TO SOVIETS IN EDITORIAL COLUMNS.
DOWN-PLAYING OF SOVIET ROLE IS PERHAPS DUE TO UNPOPULARITY
OF SOVIETS, AND SOVIET MILITARY IN PARTICULAR, IN MANY SEGMENTS
OF EGYPTIAN SOCIETY AND DESIRE ON PART OF LEADERSHIP TO
SHARE "VICTORY" WITH AS FEW OTHERS AS POSSIBLE.

ALL PAPERS COVERED ON SECONDARY THEME--CONTINUING
OVERWHELMING US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. AL-AHRAM COVERED THE
THEME IN DAILY EDITORIAL HEADLINED "A STAND PROVOKING
SUSPICION." HEYKAL MENTIONED IN PRINT FOR FIRST TIME RUMOR
THAT HAS BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SEVERAL DAYS--THAT INTELLIGENCE
GATHERED FROM OCTOBER 13 SR-71 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT WAS MADE
AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ISRAEL'S SUCCESS-
FUL PENETRATION OF EGYPTIAN LINES.

SMITH

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